

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, December 11, 2006

CONTACT: Jim Edgcomb
Treasure State Endowment Program
406-841-2785

Marissa Kozel
Montana Department of Commerce
406-841-2772

Montana Department of Commerce Makes TSEP Grant Recommendations to Legislature

(HELENA) – The tiny town of Bainville has a big problem lurking underground.

Bainville's 57-year-old wastewater system is failing; releasing 85 percent of the town's wastewater into the ground. Those leaks are a health hazard for residents and an expensive headache for local officials.

The Montana Treasure State Endowment Program is ready to help.

Bainville is one of 31 communities the Montana Department of Commerce has selected to receive grants from the Treasure State Endowment Program. The TSEP grants total over \$17 million, and are used to assist local governments in improving or constructing vital drinking water and wastewater treatment systems, sewer and storm water collection, and bridges.

"TSEP makes public facilities projects affordable for our communities, and creates an essential partnership between the State and local governments," said Governor Brian Schweitzer. "It helps communities deal with critical public health and safety needs, and it stimulates local economies through new jobs."

"This program helps communities meet their most basic needs," said Anthony J. Preite, Director of the Montana Department of Commerce. "TSEP allows the State to extend a hand to local governments, so they can create and improve infrastructure at the most critical level."

The Department of Commerce has asked the 2007 Legislature to approve the grant recommendations, based on the specific challenges facing each community. The grants are funded through interest earned from the Coal Tax Trust Fund, and are matched by local funds, loans and grants from other state and federal programs. Grant recommendations range from \$97,079 to \$750,000 per project.

The Treasure State Endowment Program received 26 other community proposals, which did not meet qualification standards, or could not be funded.

Several communities recommended for TSEP grants, are also candidates to receive grants through the Montana Community Development Block Grant Program. The CDBG grants could provide additional funding for projects recommended through TSEP. The CDBG Program is federally-funded, and awaits Congressional action on the 2007 budget.

Recommended TSEP projects include:

- **Drinking Water Projects:** Carter-Chouteau Co. Water & Sewer District, Harlem, Lewis & Clark County for the Woodlawn Park Addition, Loma Co. Water & Sewer District, Pinesdale, Power-Teton Co. Water & Sewer District, RAE Subdivision County Water and Sewer District No. 313, Seeley Lake – Missoula Co. Water District, Sunny Meadows Missoula Co. Water & Sewer District, Superior, Thompson Falls, and Tri-County Water District.
- **Sewer Collection and Wastewater Treatment Projects:** Bainville, Bigfork Co. Water/Sewer District, Circle, Dayton/Lake Co. Water & Sewer District, Jordan, Laurel, Sheridan, and Twin Bridges.
- **Combined Drinking Water and Sewer Collection Project:** Ekalaka.
- **Storm water Project:** Fort Benton
- **Bridge Projects:** Blaine, Fergus, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Madison, Powell, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, and Yellowstone Counties.

The following is the list of the 31 local governments that have been recommended for a TSEP grant and the amount being recommended.

TSEP Applicants	Type of Project	Grant Amount Recommended
Lewis & Clark County for the Woodlawn Park Addition	water	\$596,420
Bainville, Town of	wastewater	\$715,000
Madison Co.	bridge	\$370,100
Sweet Grass Co.	bridge	\$151,493
Powell Co.	bridge	\$263,074
Circle, Town of	wastewater	\$750,000
Harlem, City of	water	\$750,000
Jordan, Town of	wastewater	\$700,000
Thompson Falls, City of	water	\$363,000

Twin Bridges, Town of	wastewater	\$750,000
Seeley Lake – Missoula Co. Water District	water	\$750,000
Fergus Co.	bridge	\$238,362
Sunny Meadows Missoula Co. Water & Sewer District	water	\$325,000
Tri-County Water District	water	\$313,500
Blaine Co.	bridge	\$617,017
Loma Co. Water & Sewer District	water	\$750,000
Ekalaka, Town of	water & wastewater	\$706,369
Stillwater Co.	bridge	\$407,500
Sheridan, Town of	wastewater	\$750,000
Carter-Chouteau Co. Water & Sewer District	water	\$750,000
Bigfork Co. Water/Sewer District	wastewater	\$750,000
Dayton/Lake Co. Water & Sewer District	wastewater	\$750,000
Judith Basin Co.	bridge	\$192,215
Pinesdale, Town of	water	\$750,000
Power-Teton Co. Water & Sewer District	water	\$604,286
Superior, Town of	water	\$600,000
RAE Subdivision County Water and Sewer District No. 313	water	\$750,000
Jefferson Co.	bridge	\$295,800
Fort Benton, City of	storm water	\$750,000
Laurel, City of	wastewater	\$750,000
Yellowstone Co.	bridge	\$97,079

